



FIGURE 1 Rash at the site of injection.

Allergy to insulin detemir

Insulin detemir is a long-acting insulin analogue, which has been available for clinical use for several years. Injection site reaction (usually mild) has been reported in ~1–2% of insulin detemir users [1].

In the last few months we have seen three patients who have had a significant reaction to insulin. The reaction was particularly severe in a 71-year-old man. He initially complained of itchiness over the injection site. He would then develop a

well-circumscribed reddish rash around the injection site over the next few hours, followed by formation of a small lump, which would gradually disappear over the next few days. Both the rash and the lumps became more marked with subsequent injections (Fig. 1). Detemir was withdrawn, resulting in prompt resolution of his problems.

The close temporal and local connection, and its resolution following withdrawal of detemir, proves the causal role of detemir in the allergy. Type III allergy to detemir has been reported rarely in the past [2–4]. However, we believe this allergy may be more common than previously realized. Patients should be warned about a possible allergic reaction prior to commencing insulin detemir.

Competing interests

None to declare.

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References

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